

The Canadian Reader

Current Canadian events and issues for students in Grades 3 and up

Free
Sample



Includes

- A News Story
- Lesson Plan
- Organizer

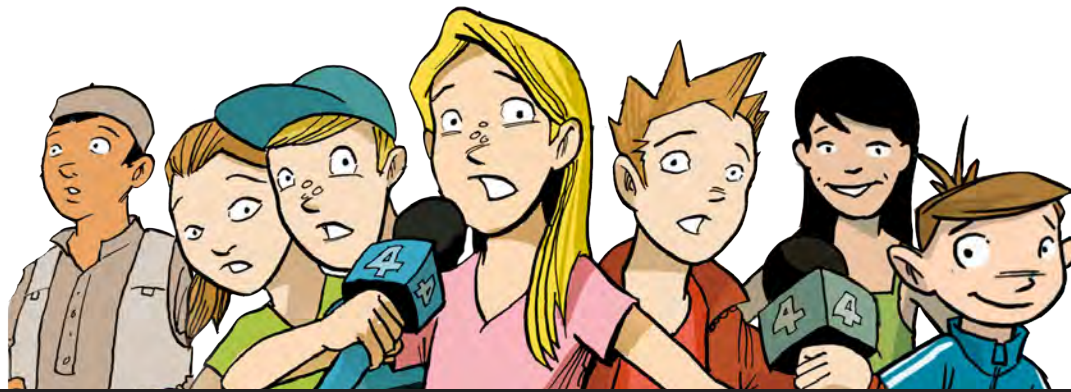
Subscribe to receive 2 additional articles, answer keys, & more!

4 Free Article: **They're Here – Wild Pigs!**

6 Comprehension Check | 7 Language Focus

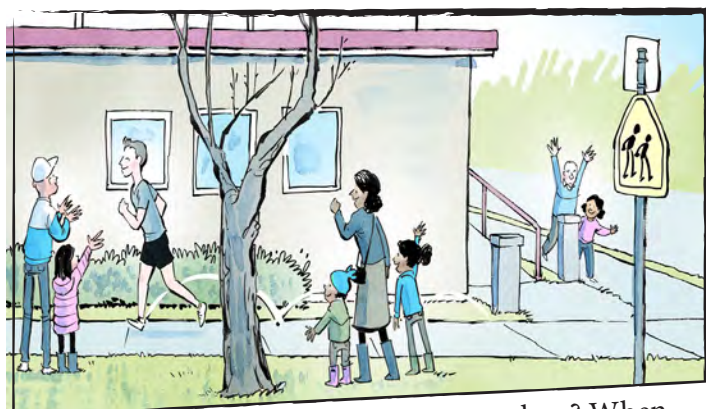
8 Lesson Plan | 10 Organizer: **The Problems with Wild Pigs**

11 Map: **The Prairie Provinces**



WHAT YOU'RE MISSING

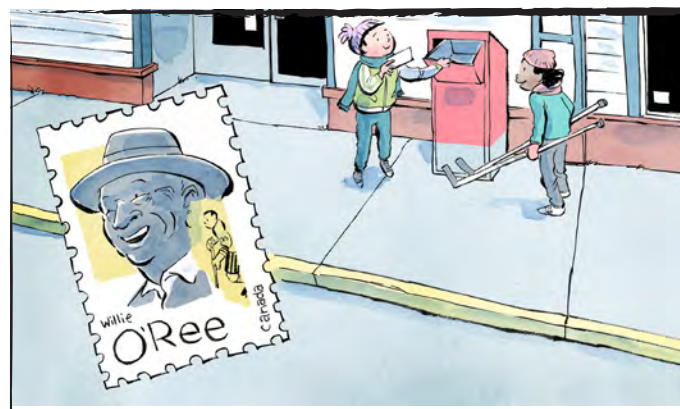
Laps for Lunches



Has your teacher ever asked you to run laps? When was the last time your teacher ran laps for you? Brent Mansfield teaches at Lord Roberts Elementary School in Vancouver. On October 27 . . .

Subscribe to read the full article. www.lesplan.com

A Willie O'Ree Stamp



Willie O'Ree broke barriers as the first Black hockey player in the NHL. He played for the Boston Bruins between 1958 and 1961. In October, Canada Post created a new stamp . . .

Subscribe to read the full article. 1 (888) 240-2246

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With a subscription, you'll receive **eight full issues**.

Each issue combines current **Canadian events and issues** with **geography** to expand students' knowledge of Canada while enhancing their ability to read and understand informational text.

Three **levelled news stories** are accompanied by detailed **literacy-based lesson plans, organizers, and criteria for assessment**, as well as comprehension checks and a language focus.

"Your package will be a part of my classroom for many years to come!!!"

- M. Schneider, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

"I love this publication! It is an excellent complement to my Social Studies curriculum and the activities enable me to cover many provincial outcomes."

- S. Giffin, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia

"When I have kids in grade 4/5 wanting to know when the next issue is coming, even in December and June, that's when I know I have an excellent resource."

- A. Eisler, Burnaby, B.C.

The Canadian Reader

Current Canadian events and issues for students in grades 3 and up.

The Canadian Reader is published eight times during the school year in English and in French from September through May by LesPlan Educational Services Ltd.

Subscribe to **The Canadian Reader** at a cost of \$230 per year (\$28.75 per issue), by contacting us at:

LesPlan Educational Services Ltd.
#1 - 4144 Wilkinson Road
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Internet: www.lesplan.com

How to use this resource:

The Canadian Reader is a made-in-Canada teaching and learning resource featuring all-Canadian content. It has three main components; use the entire package, or pick and choose the pages that suit your class the best.

1. **Literacy Focus** – This generic lesson plan focuses on seven key non-fiction reading comprehension strategies, presented in the following order:

Issue 1: *Using Text Features*

Issue 2: *Making Connections*

Issue 3: *Visualizing*

Issue 4: *Asking Questions*

Issue 5: *Making Inferences*

Issue 6: *Determining Importance*

Issue 7: *Transforming/Synthesizing*

Issue 8: *Reading Strategies Review and Assessment*

Teachers may introduce and practice each month's strategy using any of the articles in the issue, or save it for another time or text.

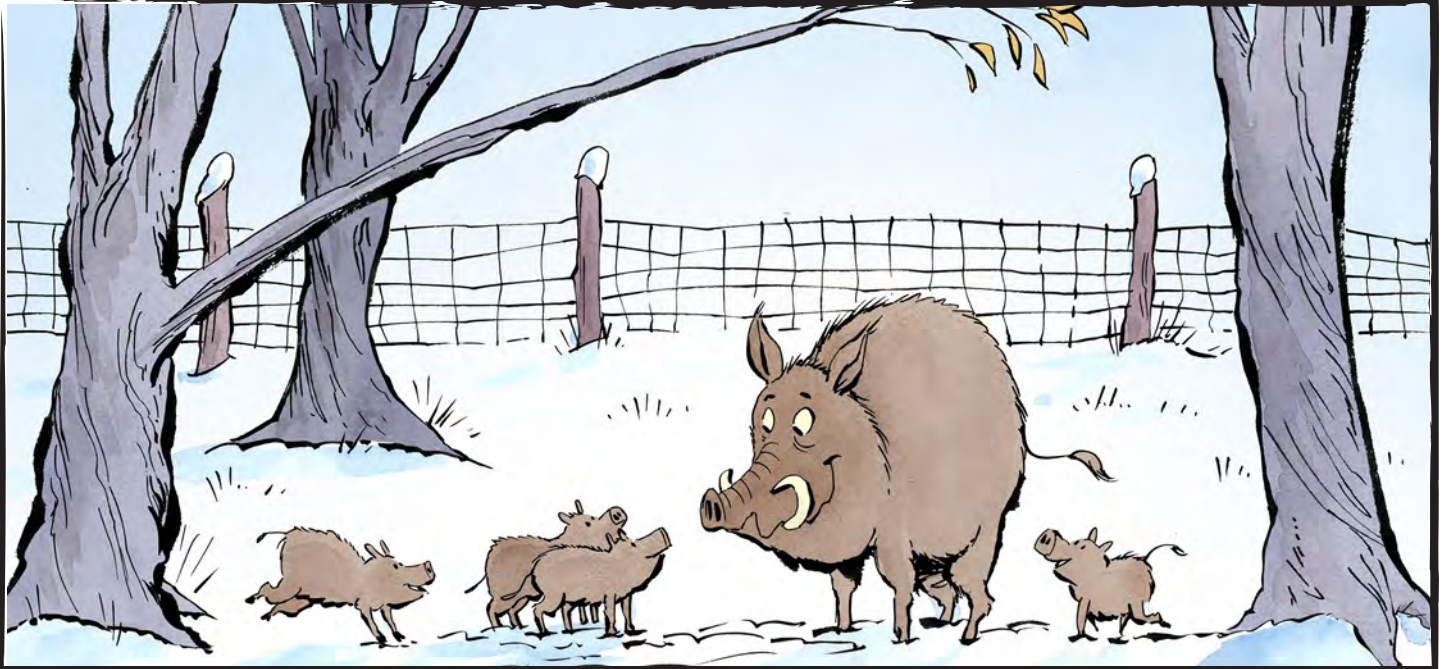
2. **Canadian news stories** – Each of the three articles is leveled and accompanied by Comprehension Check questions, a Language Focus, and a literacy-based lesson plan and supporting materials. Teach the lessons as they are presented, or pick and choose the activities and assignments you'd like to explore with your students.

3. **Did You Know? comic** – This comic provides basic information about a current news story or event, or supports one of the articles with background information. It's a great way to engage reluctant readers and build students' background knowledge in a fun and graphic way.

Note: All URLs referenced in **The Canadian Reader** are posted as links on our student website at <http://www.lesplan.com/en/links>. Bookmark this URL on your school's computer network to give students easy access to our recommended sites.

Share **The Canadian Reader** with other staff members in your school, including itinerant, relief, and substitute teachers.

They're Here – Wild Pigs!



It seemed like a good idea 60 years ago. Bring over boars from Europe (a boar is a wild pig). Start raising them on farms here. People will find the meat very tasty. But be careful — don't let those wild pigs escape.

Oops

About 30 years ago, some of those imported pigs did escape. They bred with domestic pigs. And now they are spreading rapidly across North America. The hot spot is the Prairies — Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta.

Why are wild pigs a problem? They are really, really invasive. Incredibly destructive. They've been called "an ecological train wreck."

They eat everything from roots to bird eggs to small mammals. They rip through the ground, destroying crops. They turn over plants to eat roots and get at bugs.

They wallow around in wetlands. "They contaminate the water," says one ecologist.

"They can transmit disease to humans, pets, livestock, and wildlife."

"They just do tremendous destruction."

About wild pigs

Wild pigs aren't cute and cuddly. They are big. They can weigh well over 150 kilograms (similar to a black bear). They have razor-sharp tusks and a long snout. They can be aggressive and dangerous. They move fast.

"And they're incredibly smart," says one expert.

They also reproduce rapidly. Sows give birth to two or three litters each year. Each litter has about six piglets. Young pigs start reproducing at just four to eight months old.

“A small problem can turn into a massive out-of-control problem very quickly.”

How to get rid of them

Alberta has set up a tip line called “Squeal on Pigs.” It encourages people to report wild pig sightings.

But once the pigs become established, it’s almost impossible to get rid of them.

The animals are hard to track. They run away at any sign of danger. They hide in thick cover. They make underground burrows or nest in cattails. In winter, they tunnel into snowbanks and build ‘pigloos’.

They’re very suspicious. “They become real wary of humans,” says one scientist.

Hunting doesn’t work. The animals spook and scatter when they hear guns.

“The remaining wild boars will learn to evade future hunting efforts. They will

become more **elusive**. They’ll avoid humans. They’ll go nocturnal and they’ll disperse.”

Trapping them isn’t easy. Trappers use bait to lure pigs into a corral. They watch them on remotely-operated cameras. Then they drop the gate.

Wild boars who become **elusive** are difficult to find, catch, or track.

“It’s important... not to have any on the wrong side of the gate,” says one trapper. “Any that escape will become more trap-wise.”

Their growth is exploding. There have been close to 62,000 reports of wild pigs across Canada. More than 75 percent of the sightings have been in the last five years. Now they’re spreading into the United States.

“Wild pigs are the worst invasive wild animal on the planet,” says one expert. “They’re a global menace.”

As you see it, what is the importance of wild pigs in Canada?



They're Here – Wild Pigs!

Comprehension Check

Write the letter of the *best* answer in the space beside each question.

_____ 1. Why were wild boars brought to Canada?

- a) To breed with domestic pigs.
- b) To be raised and eaten.
- c) To keep crops from spreading.
- d) To be sold as pets.

_____ 2. Wild pigs are big. They are similar in weight to which animal?

- a) Wolves.
- b) Black bears.
- c) Cows.
- d) Bison.

_____ 3. How many litters of piglets can sows give birth to every year?

- a) Two or three.
- b) Six.
- c) Four to eight.
- d) One.

_____ 4. What is a pigloo?

- a) A nest made of cattails.
- b) A den in the wetland.
- c) A burrow under tall grass.
- d) A tunnel in a snowbank.

_____ 5. Why does hunting wild pigs not work?

- a) They will attack humans when they hear guns.
- b) They are very fast and cannot be caught.
- c) They scatter when they hear guns.
- d) They are too numerous.

They're Here – Wild Pigs!

Language Focus

Synonyms are words that have almost the same meaning.

For example: Synonyms for **big**: large, huge, gigantic

A. Circle the two synonyms for each set of words:

- | | | | |
|------------|---------|---------|-------------|
| 1. toasty | chilly | cool | comfortable |
| 2. walk | crawl | stroll | run |
| 3. argue | scare | confuse | frighten |
| 4. bravery | honesty | courage | winner |
| 5. cook | drink | eat | munch |

B. Write a synonym for each of the following underlined words:

1. It seemed like a good idea. _____
2. Wild pigs eat bird eggs and small animals. _____
3. They can transmit disease to humans . _____
4. Wild pigs are tremendously destructive. _____
5. They are incredibly smart. _____
6. They are hard to track. _____
7. Trappers use bait to lure pigs into a corral. _____
8. The wild pigs hide in thick cover. _____
9. Some wild pigs evade the hunters. _____

They're Here – Wild Pigs!

Lesson Plan

Before Reading:

- Using appropriate technology, project one or more photos of wild pigs, such as those found in **Internet Connections**. Invite small groups of students to brainstorm on a large piece of paper what they: *see/notice* in the photos; *know* (or *think they know*) about wild pigs; and *wonder* about them. When they have finished, facilitate a Gallery Walk or a class-wide share.
- Next, post a copy of the introduction that you have written on chart paper. Together “explode to explain”.* Closely read the text, annotate, and practice explaining what you (and they) are thinking and learning about wild pigs in Canada. Encourage them to consider what the information suggests and why it is important.

*For an example of how to explode to explain, visit this MIDDLEWEB blog by Sunday Cummins: <https://www.middleweb.com/44199/teach-your-students-to-explode-complex-text/>

During Reading:

- As students read the article, encourage them to highlight or underline important information about the problems caused by the wild pigs.

After Reading:

- Give groups a few minutes to revisit their pre-reading brainstorms and place a check [✓] next to any facts that were confirmed in the article and any questions they found the answers to.
- Distribute to each student, or pair of students, a copy of **The Problems with Wild Pigs** (p. 10). As a class, brainstorm characteristics of wild pigs (e.g., invasive, destructive, smart, elusive, fast-moving). Direct students to record 3-5 of these in the left-hand column of the organizer, then have them describe the impact these characteristics have on the environment or humans. For example, because wild pigs are elusive (they are hard to catch), humans need to come up with creative ways to track and trap them.
- When students have completed their organizers, introduce the term *theme* (the big idea or the message the reporter wants you to take away from the article). To help students identify the theme encourage them to ask themselves these questions:
 - What was the main problem in the story?
 - What did experts learn?
 - What did we learn from the experts?
- Have students write the theme of the article at the bottom of the organizer. Alternatively, have students copy, then **explode to explain**, the final quote of the article in the Theme box: *Wild pigs are the worst invasive wild animal on the planet,” says one expert. “They’re a global menace.”*
- Criteria for Assessment:** A strong theme statement is plausible (likely to be true given the facts in the article), *includes the impact*, and *shows a deep understanding of the problems*.

Lesson Plan

Extensions:

- Create a Wanted Poster:** Encourage students to conduct further research on wild pigs. Then, challenge them to create a wanted poster that includes the following: picture, physical description, last seen, wanted for (description of the 'crime'), approach with caution (why they have to be careful about approaching wild pigs), reward amount, and who to contact. There are many online wanted poster templates students may use as inspiration (e.g., Canva, Picsart, PosterMyWall).
- Design a Solution:** Challenge small groups of students to use what they learned about wild pigs to create a solution for the wild pig problem. You may find the design thinking process a useful framework to guide students' actions. Encourage them first to identify the specific problem they want to address, then ideate before creating a prototype to present to the class for feedback.

Internet Connections:

- Learn more about this news story:
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/super-pig-saskatchewan-problem-1.7037360>
<https://www.ctvnews.ca/mobile/canada/exploding-population-of-super-pigs-in-canada-threatens-to-invade-northern-u-s-states-1.6656874?clipId=104056>
- Find out more about wild pigs:
<https://www.invasivespeciescentre.ca/invasive-species/meet-the-species/land-and-animal-invertebrates/wild-pigs/>
<https://a-z-animals.com/animals/wild-boar/#single-animal-text>
- Look at maps showing how the wild pigs are spreading across Canada:
<https://naturealberta.ca/wild-boars-on-the-march/>
https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Spatial-expansion-of-wild-pigs-in-Canada-from-the-period-of-initial-escapes-and-releases_fig1_332988461
- What do you do if you see a wild pig? Participate in the 'Squeal on Pigs' program:
https://www.cwhc-rcsf.ca/invasive_igs.php#background
- See one way the wild pigs are being tracked:
<https://globalnews.ca/video/rd/4be0ec8-634e-11eb-8e1d-0242ac110004/?jwsourc=cl>
- Photos of wild pigs:
<https://i2.wp.com/nypost.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2017/12/wild-boar-feature.jpg?quality=90&strip=all&ssl=1>
https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/2/27/Wild_Boar_Habbitat_2crp2.jpg
<http://northamericannature.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Wild-boar.jpg>
- Learn more about design thinking:
<https://empathizeit.com/design-thinking-models-stanford-d-school/>
<https://youtu.be/a7sEoEvT8l8>
<http://www.web.stanford.edu/~mshanks/MichaelShanks/files/509554.pdf>

Note: All URLs are posted as links at <http://www.lesplan.com/en/links>

They're Here – Wild Pigs!

The Problems with Wild Pigs

Characteristics	Impact on the Environment and Humans

Theme:

Map: The Prairie Provinces

Complete this map assignment to help you better understand the context of the article *They're Here – Wild Pigs!*

Label the following, then colour:

Provinces

- British Columbia
- Alberta
- Saskatchewan
- Manitoba
- Ontario

Cities

- Edmonton
- Calgary
- Regina
- Saskatoon
- Winnipeg
- Brandon

Salt Water

- Hudson Bay

Territories

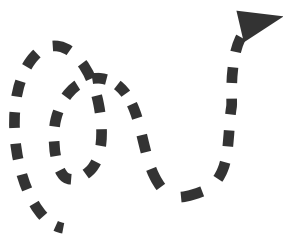
- Northwest Territories
- Nunavut
- Yukon

Other

- United States

Fresh Water

- Lake Winnipeg
- Great Slave Lake
- Lake Athabasca



Did You Know . . . ?

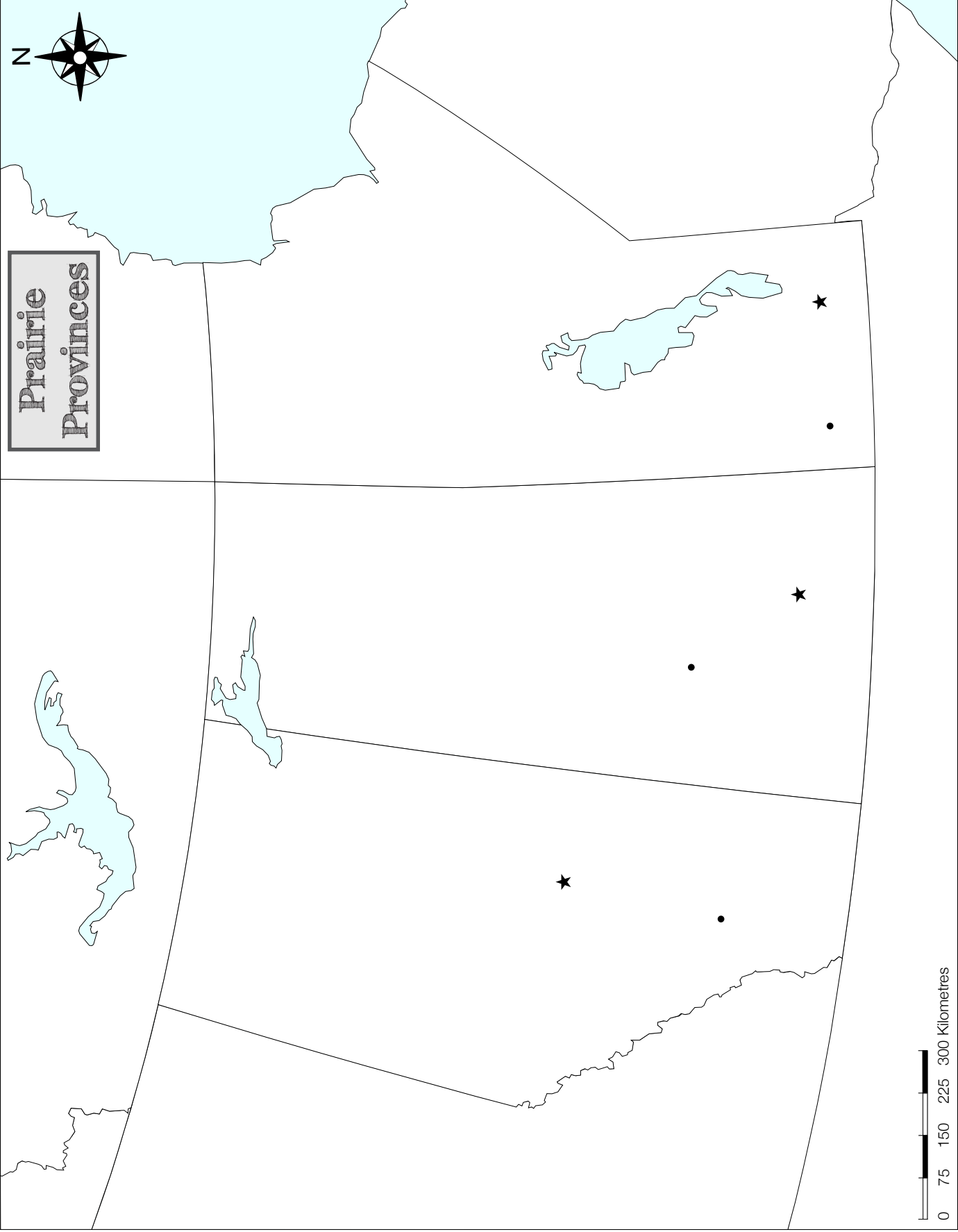
You can use the scale at the bottom of a map to calculate distances.

How far is it from Calgary to Regina? From Saskatoon to Regina?
From Edmonton to the United States border?

A good map is complete, accurate, and visually appealing.



Prairie
Provinces



Current Events, Clearly Explained



Students want to know what's happening in their world – but the news can be difficult and time-consuming to teach.

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- ✓ Clearly written, leveled Canadian current events articles
- ✓ Literacy-based lesson plans
- ✓ Engaging, original illustrations
- ✓ Comics
- ✓ Map assignments



Product details: 8 issues. 38 pages. Available in English and in French for grades 3 and up (1 reading level).

Currents4Kids.com News4Youth.com

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- ✓ Weekly
- ✓ Auto-graded quizzes
- ✓ Comment page for students to respond to the stories
- ✓ Links to relevant articles, resources, maps, photos and videos
- ✓ Extension activities



Product details: 40 issues. **One subscription** allows all teachers and students access from any Internet-connected device at any time. Available in English and in French.
Currents4Kids/Infos-Jeunes: Grades 3 and up (1 reading level).
News4Youth/Infos-Ados: Grades 5 and up (3 reading levels).

What in the World?

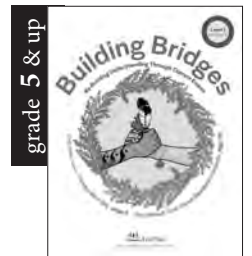
- ✓ PDF/Word resource
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- ✓ Key vocabulary
- ✓ Background information
- ✓ Varied assignments that build content-area knowledge and enhance critical thinking
- ✓ Maps and illustrations



Product details: 8 issues. 60 pages. Available in English and in French, and in 2 reading levels, for grades 5 and up.

Building Bridges

- ✓ PDF/Word resource
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- ✓ Two theme-based articles and lesson plans
- ✓ Background information
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- ✓ Encourages a respectful, reflective, empathetic, and inquiring frame of mind



Product details: 5 issues. Variable page length. Available in English and in French, and in 2 reading levels, for grades 5 and up.

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Students Can Work In Word/Google Docs...



Did you know...

... that each issue of *The Canadian Reader* includes a PDF file (complete document) and a Word file (articles and questions only)

Students can complete assignments directly in a Word file. Teachers can email the file to students or post it on the Internet. The Word file also allows teachers to:

- easily modify and format content including changing **fonts** and **text sizes**
- create a PDF document and use **Adobe Reader's** 'Read Out Loud Mode'
- save paper and copying costs and help protect the environment
- promote and encourage students' computer skills

Password Security

There are **three** ways to access data from a Word file that is password protected:

- 1) Select the data you wish to **Copy** and then **Paste** it into any word processing program. Use **Select All** to copy the entire document.
- 2) Import the entire **Word** file into **LibreOffice** (or another similar program) and then save as a new file.
- 3) To remove the password from a protected **Word** file, use **Save As** to make a new copy of the file. You can then change the **Security** settings and remove the password.

Google Docs and LibreOffice

- You can easily upload the **Word** file to **Google Docs** and share it with students or other teachers.
- You can translate **Google Docs** into another language (*see Tools > Translate document*) but you will need to edit the document to suit your requirements. **Google Docs** can translate into over 100 languages including Spanish, Mandarin, and German.
- **LibreOffice** is a free alternate to **Microsoft Office** and offers the same functionality. It's easy to install and use. See: www.libreoffice.org

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These current events are the perfect supplement for any Social Studies program. They are a wonderful jumping point for class discussion. Keep up the good work!

K. Faltin, Erskine, AB

It is a relief to have a resource that fits with the curriculum and is teacher-friendly (ready to hand out). The added bonus of having the answers to the questions and discussion notes makes my life just a little bit easier.

B. Thibodeau, Saskatoon, SK

I have been using your product for seven years. There isn't a month that goes by that I don't get into challenging discussions with my students with the leads you provide and go in directions I could never imagine. Thank you for this terrific teaching aid!

D. Faerber, Pembroke, ON

3 Literacy Focus: Making Connections
6 Article: Shark Bait | 13 Map: Gulf of St. Lawrence
15 Article: Journey Through the North
22 Article: She Shoots, She Scores!
30 Comic: Sport in Canada | 32 Answer Key

LesPlan Teachers serving teachers since 1990 2023-2024: Issue 2

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■ YES, sign me up for the 2023 – 2024 school year and send me the November and December issues FREE*
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<i>The Canadian Reader</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Grades 3 and up	\$115	
<i>What in the World?</i> Level 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Grades 5 and up	\$115	
<i>What in the World?</i> Level 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Grades 8 and up	\$115	
			Online Weekly (Nov. – June 30 issues)		
<i>Currents4Kids</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Grades 3 and up	\$115	
<i>News4Youth</i> Level 1, 2 & 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Grades 7 and up	\$220	
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LesPlan
THE CANADIAN READER
 Sample Pages

The sample pages include:

- Literacy Focus:** Reading Strategy Review with sections on 'ask questions before, during, and after they read', 'make inferences', and 'transform their thinking'.
- Lost Viking Settlement?** An article about a 10th-century Viking settlement in Newfoundland.
- Sunscreen by the Squirt:** A story about a boy named David who invents a sunscreen.
- The Canadian Reader Answer Key:** A map of Canada with a trail system overlaid.
- Canada's Great Trail:** A large illustration of a family hiking on a trail with a large tree.

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